

## THE COUGUAR\*.

THE couguar is as long, but not so thick, as the jaguar; his legs are also longer, and he has more the shape of a greyhound. His head is small, his tail long, and his hair of nearly a uniform colour, being of a lively red, mixed with a little tincture of black, especially on the back. He has no spots like those of the tiger, the leopard, the ounce, and the panther. His chin, throat, and all the inferior parts of his

\* The couguar, or brown cat, has a very little head, small pointed ears, large eyes, a white chin, and the back, neck, rump, and sides, of a pale brownish red colour, mixed with dusky hairs. The breast, belly, and inside of the legs, are cinereous. The hair on the belly is long; the tail is dusky and ferruginous, but black at the tip. The teeth are of a vast size, and the claws are white, the outmost one of the fore-feet being much longer than the others. It is long bodied, and high on its legs. The length from nose to tail is five feet three inches, and that of the tail two feet eight; *Pennant's Synops. of Quad.* p. 179.

The couguar, which we have contracted from the Brazilian name *caguaca ara*, pronounced *cougouacouare*, is called the red tiger in Guiana.

*Cougaca ara*; *Pijon, Hist. Nat.* p. 105.

*Cougaca arana*; *Marcgravii Hist. Brafil.* p. 245.

*Cougaca arana Brasiliensis*; *Rott. Synops. Quad.* p. 169.

*Tigris fulvus*; *Barriere, Hist. Franc. Equinox.* p. 166.

*Felis ex flavo rufescens, mente et infimo ventre albicantibus* . . . *Tigris fulva. Le tigre rouge; Brisson, Regn. Anim.* p. 272.

The American tiger, whose skin is brown, and without spots; *Voyage de la Condamine sur la Riviere des Amaraucis*, p. 162.

body, are whitish. Though weaker, he is equally ferocious, and, perhaps, more cruel than the jaguar. He appears to be still more rapacious\*; for he devours his prey without tearing it in pieces. As soon as he seizes an animal, he kills, sucks, and eats it successively, and never quits it till he is fully gorged.

These animals are very common in Guiana. Great numbers of them were formerly seen swimming from the Continent to the island of Cayenne†, in order to devour the flocks. They were, at first, a great scourge to the colony; but, by hunting and destroying them, they have gradually retired to a distance from the more cultivated parts of the country. They are found in Brasil, Paraguay, and the Amazon country; and it is probable, that the animal mentioned by some travellers, under the name of *ocorome*‡, is the same with the couguar, as well as the Iroquois animal§, which has been regarded as a

tiger,

\* *Coguacu-ama*, the red, or rather bay tiger, is the most insatiable and rapacious of all American animals; *Barbier, Hist. de la France Equinox.* p. 166.

† *Voyage de Desmarchais*, p. 309.—The colony of Cayenne has not a greater scourge than that of the tigers; *Rogé's Voyage*, tom. iii. p. 28.

‡ The *ocorome* of Peru is of the size of a large dog. His hair is red, his muzzle pointed, and his teeth very sharp; *Lettres Éspagnoles*, Recueil x. *Voyage de Correal*, tom. ii. p. 351.

§ We find in the Iroquois country, tigers of a grayish colour, but not spotted. They have a long tail, and hunt the porcupine. The Iroquois kill them more frequently on trees than on the ground. . . . Some of them have reddish hair,

tiger, though he is neither spotted like the panther, nor marked with long bands like the tiger.

The couguars, by the lightness of their body, and the length of their limbs, should be more swift, and climb trees with greater facility, than the jaguar. When gorged with prey, they are both equally indolent and cowardly. They seldom attack men, unless they find them sleeping. When men pass the night in the woods, the kindling a fire is sufficient to prevent the approach of these animals\*. They delight in the shades of large forests. They conceal themselves in the thickets, or even in a bushy tree, from which they dart upon animals as they pass. Though they live on prey only, and drink blood oftener than water, their flesh is said to be very good. Pifo says, that it is as good as veal†, and others compare it to mutton‡. I can hardly believe that the flesh of this animal is good, especially as Desmarchais affirms§, that

and, in all of them, it is very fine, and their skins make excellent hats; *Charlevoix*, tom. i. p. 272.

\* The Indians on the banks of the Oronoko in Guiana, kindle fires during the night to intimidate the tigers, who never approach as long as the fire burns; *Hist. Nat. de l'Oronoko, par le P. Joseph Jomilla*, tom. ii. p. 3.

† Nec est, quod aliquis putet à Barbaris tantum expeti carnem harum rapacium animalium: Illæ enim quæ rufescentibus et flavescitibus maculis sunt, ab omnibus passim Europæis incolis, indur vitulina, æstimatur; *Piffo. Hist. Not.* p. 103.

‡ The flesh of the Iroquois tigers, even in the estimation of the French, is as good as mutton; *Charlevoix*, tom. i. p. 272.

§ *Voyage de Desmarchais*, tom. iii. p. 299.

the skin is the only part of him which is valuable, and that his flesh is generally lean, and of a disagreeable flavour.

### S U P P L E M E N T.

IN the original work, we gave the figure of a male couguar, and we now add that of the female, which we had an opportunity of drawing a few years ago.

#### The COUGUAR of PENNSYLVANIA.

The jaguar, as well as the couguar, inhabits the warmest regions of South America. But there is another species of couguar (of which we have given a figure) found in the temperate climates of North America, as on the mountains of Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and the adjacent provinces. The drawing of this couguar was sent me from England by the late Mr. Colinson, with the following description: If it is exact, this couguar must differ greatly from the common kind.

‘The couguar of Pennsylvania,’ says Mr. Colinson, ‘differs much from the couguar of Cayenne (above described). His limbs are shorter,

‘his

‘his body much longer, and his tail is also three or four inches longer. But, in the colour of the hair, and the form of the head and ears, they have a perfect resemblance to each other. The couguar of Pennsylvania,’ adds Mr. Colinson, ‘is an animal remarkable for thinness and length of body, shortness of legs, and length of tail. The length of the body, from the muzzle to the anus, is five feet four inches; and that of the tail is two feet six inches. The fore-legs are one foot long, and the hind legs one foot three inches. The height of the body before is one foot nine inches, and one foot ten inches behind. The circumference of the thickest part of the body is two feet three inches \*.’

Mr. Edwards, who, for skill in the art of drawing, and knowledge of natural history, merits the applauses of all lovers of science, sent me some engravings, which corresponded with the drawing communicated by Mr. Colinson.

#### The BLACK COUGUAR.

M. de la BORDE, King’s physician at Cayenne, informs me, that in the Continent there are three species of rapacious animals; that the first is the jaguar, which is called the *tiger*; that

\* Mr. Colinson’s letter to M. de Buffon, April 30, 1763.

the second is the couguar, called the *red tiger*, on account of the uniform redness of his hair; that the jaguar is of the size of a large bull-dog, and weighs about 200 pounds; that the couguar is smaller, less dangerous, and not so frequent in the neighbourhood of Cayenne as the jaguar; and that both these animals take six years in acquiring their full growth. He adds, that there is a third species in these countries, called the *black tiger*, of which we have given a figure under the appellation of the *black couguar*.

'The head,' says M. de la Borde, 'is pretty similar to that of the common couguar; but the animal has long black hair, and likewise a long tail, and strong whiskers. He weighs not above forty pounds. The female brings forth her young in the hollows of old trees.'

\* To this description we shall add that given by Mr. Pennant, which is more accurate, though somewhat different from that communicated by M. de la Borde to M. de Buffon.

'*Black tiger, or cat*, with the head black, sides, fore-part of the legs, and the tail, covered with short and very glossy hairs, of a dusky colour, sometimes spotted with black, but generally plain: Upper lips white: At the corner of the mouth a black spot: Long hairs above each eye, and long whiskers on the upper lip: Lower lip, throat, belly, and the inside of the legs, whitish, or very pale ash-colour: Paws white: Ears pointed: Grows to the size of a hircine of a year old: Has vast strength in its limbs.—Inhabits Brazil and Guiana: Is a cruel and fierce beast; much dreaded by the Indians: but happily is a scarce species; Pennant's *History of Quad.* p. 186.

This description was taken from two black cougars which were shown in London some years ago.

This

This black couguar may be the same animal which Piso and Marcgrave call the *jaguarett*, or *jaguar with black hair*, and which no other traveller has mentioned under the name of *jaguarett*. I only find, in a note of M. Sonini de Manoncourt, that the jaguarett is called the *black tiger* at Cayenne, and that he is of a different species from the jaguar, being smaller, and thinner in the body. This animal is fierce and rapacious; but he is very rare in the neighbourhood of Cayenne.

'The jaguars and cougars,' continues M. de la Borde, 'are very common in all the lands which border on the river of the Amazons, as far as Saint Martha. Their skin is so tender as to be easily pierced by the simple arrows of the Indians. Besides, all these animals are not absolutely fond of carnage; for a single prey always satisfies them. They go generally alone; but, when the females are in season, sometimes two or three of them are seen together.'

'When pressed with hunger, they attack cows and oxen. They spring upon the back of an ox, fix the claws of their left foot upon his neck, and, when he falls down, they tear him in pieces; and, after opening his breast and belly to glut themselves with blood, they trail portions of his flesh into the wood. They then cover the remainder of the carcase with branches of trees, and remove not to any great distance.'

distance. But, whenever the flesh begins to corrupt, they eat no more of it. Sometimes they conceal themselves in trees, and dart down upon passing animals. They likewise follow the flocks of wild hogs, and seize the stragglers. But, if ever they allow themselves to be surrounded by these animals, they have no safety except in a precipitate retreat.

But, neither the jaguars nor cougars are absolutely ferocious: They never attack men, unless when they feel themselves wounded. But they despise the assaults of dogs, which they often seize in the neighbourhood of houses. When pursued by such a number of dogs as obliges them to fly, they take refuge in the trees. These animals often roam about the margins of the sea, and eat the eggs deposited there by the turtles. They likewise eat *caïmans*, or alligators, lizards, fishes, and sometimes the buds and tender leaves of the Indian fig. They are excellent swimmers, and traverse the largest rivers. In taking the *caïman*, they lie down on their belly at the edge of the river, strike the water to make a noise, and attract the attention of the *caïman*, who soon approaches, and raises his head above the water, upon which the jaguar instantly makes his deadly spring, and, after killing the animal, drags him off to a distance, in order to devour him at leisure.

The Indians say, that the jaguars decoy the agouti by counterfeiting his cry. It is likewise  
said,

Plate CXX



COUGUAR.

Plate CXXI.



FEMALE COUGAR.

*A. B. Knapp del.*

Plate CXXII.



COUGAR of PENNSYLVANIA.

*A. B. Knapp del.*



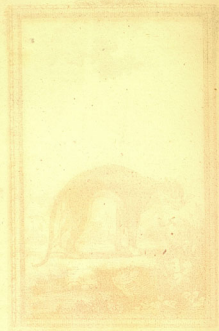


Plate CXXIII



*Abel Chapman*

BLACK COUGAR.

' said, that they attract the caïman by a cry  
' similar to that of a young dog, or like that of  
' a man who coughs, which is still more diffi-  
' cult to believe.

' When these animals are in season, they set  
' up dreadful roarings, which are heard at great  
' distances. They commonly bring forth but one  
' at a time, which they deposit in the large trunks  
' of corrupted trees. At Cayenne, they eat the  
' flesh of these animals, which, when young, is  
' as white as that of a rabbit \*.

The couguar, when brought into captivity, is  
almost equally gentle as the other domestic  
animals.

' I have seen,' says the author of *Les Recher-  
ches sur les Américains*, ' a living couguar at the  
' house of Ducos, a keeper of wild beasts; he was  
' as peaceable as a dog, and of greater size than  
' the largest kind of dogs. He stands high on his  
' legs, which renders him nimble and alert. His  
' canine teeth are very large, and conical. He  
' was neither disarmed nor muzzled; and he was  
' conducted by a leash.—He allowed himself to  
' be caressed with the hand. I have seen boys  
' mount him, and ride astraddle on his back.  
' The name of the *paltroon tiger* has been given  
' to him with propriety †.

\* Extract from observations sent from M. de la Borde to M. de  
Buffon in the year 1774.

† Defence des Recherches sur les Américains, p. 86.